GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:567
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
ACCIDENT IN SAUNDA COAL MINE
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of accidents taken place in various coal mines in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of the compensation paid to the dependents of victims;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the accident at the Central Coal Fields Limited`s Saunda mine in Bansgarha, Jharkhand where 14 miners were trapped in the morning on June 16, 2005;

(d) if so, the details of the findings thereof;

(e) whether safety measures in the mines are strictly observed;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of safety measures proposed to be undertaken to prevent such accidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO)

(a) The details of accidents taken place in various coal mines in the country during the last three years are as follows;

Year	No. of fatal accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of persons injured	No. of accidents	No. of persons seriously injured
2002	81	97	15	629	650
2003	83	113	12	563	578
2004	90	99	14	599	608

Data for 2004 is provisional.

(b) Compensation paid under the Workmen`s Compensation Act to dependents of victims in accidents of CIL and SCCL during the last three years are given below:â€”

Year	Compensation (Rs. in crores)		
	CIL	SCCL	Total
2002	1.54	0.81	2.35
2003	1.52	1.51	3.03
2004	1.91	0.48	2.39

(c) and (d) The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Ministry of Labour, which is the statutory body for enforcement of safety statutes in mines in the country, is conducting enquiry into the accident at Central Saunda colliery of Central Coalfields Limited where 14 persons were trapped in the morning of 15th June, 2005. Besides, a Committee comprising CIL officers, constituted by this Ministry is also conducting inquiry into the accident at Central Saunda Colliery, which is in progress.

(e) and (f) Mining operations in coal mines are carried out in accordance with the relevant safety statutes of the country viz. the Mines Act 1952, Coal Mines Regulations 1957, Mines Rules 1955 etc. which are enforced by the DGMS.

(g) The following specific safety measures area proposed to be undertaken in the coal mines to prevent such accidents in future:â€”

Inspections of mines from the safety angle by the line management and mine officials and the Internal Safety Organisation for

monitoring implementation of safety practices and operation of safety devices and taking corrective action wherever required.

Conducting of Safety Audits by external experts in mining/electrical/mechanical disciplines and implementation of recommendations thereof at an interval of two years and even earlier, if needed.

Continuation of thrust on greater use of quick-setting-cement-grouted/resin grouted roof bolts/ steel wire ropes for supporting of roof in development workings as well as in mechanized depillaring districts.

Regular monitoring of mine atmosphere by handheld gas detectors/ alarms and flame safety lamps for detection of inflammable/noxious gases and computerized continuous mine environmental tele-monitoring in some mines.

Check surveys by teams of surveyors from different mines/ external agencies (are in progress) in some mines to confirm partings between working areas and possible waterlogged areas or to confirm the accuracy of mine plans.

Continuation with the effort at reduction of exposure of workers to mining hazard through mechanization of loading operations by the use of Side-Discharge Loaders/Load- Haul-Dumpers, Powered Support Longwall Faces, Continuous miner technology, etc.

Promoting workers participation in safety through various committees from the mine level, area level, the company level to the holding company level.